

MATT WAGNER

DYNAMITE 9

# THE Shadow

YEAR ONE





MATT WAGNER

DYNAMITE 9

# THE Shadow

YEAR ONE

DYNAMITE 9



MATT WAGNER

DYNAMITE 9

THE

# Shadow

YEAR ONE



# THE *Shadow*

## YEAR ONE

WRITTEN BY

MATT WAGNER

ART BY

WILFREDO TORRES

COLORS BY

BRENNAN WAGNER

LETTERS BY

SIMON BOWLAND

COVERS BY

MATT WAGNER (A)

ALEX ROSS (B)

CHRIS SAMNEE (C)

HOWARD CHAYKIN (D)

SPECIAL THANKS TO

JERRY BIRENZ, ANTHONY TOLLIN, AND MICHAEL USLAN

THE SHADOW CREATED BY

WALTER B. GIBSON

SEE THE LAST PAGE FOR ALL VARIANT COVERS

**DYNAMITE**

Nick Barrucci, CEO / Publisher  
Juan Collado, President / COO  
Rich Young, Director Business Development  
Keith Davidson, Marketing Manager

Joe Rybandt, Senior Editor  
Hannah Gorfinkel, Associate Editor  
Josh Green, Traffic Coordinator  
Molly Mahan, Assistant Editor

Josh Johnson, Art Director  
Jason Ullmeyer, Senior Graphic Designer  
Katie Hidalgo, Graphic Designer  
Chris Caniano, Production Assistant



Visit us online at [www.DYNAMITE.com](http://www.DYNAMITE.com)  
Follow us on Twitter @dynamitecomics  
Like us on Facebook /Dynamitecomics  
Watch us on YouTube /Dynamitecomics



Certified Chain of Custody  
Protecting Sustainable Forestry  
[www.dinamite.com](http://www.dinamite.com)

This label only applies to the text section

THE SHADOW® YEAR ONE, Volume #1, Issue #9. First printing. Published by Dynamite Entertainment, 113 Galther Dr., STE 205, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054. The Shadow ® & © 2014 Advance Magazine Publishers Inc. dba Conde Nast. All Rights Reserved. DYNAMITE, DYNAMITE ENTERTAINMENT and its logo are ® & © 2014 Dynamite. All rights reserved. All names, characters, events, and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. No portion of this book may be reproduced by any means (digital or print) without the written permission of Dynamite Entertainment except for review purposes. Printed in Canada

For information regarding press, media rights, foreign rights, licensing, promotions, and advertising e-mail: [marketing@dynamite.com](mailto:marketing@dynamite.com)



TO MOST NEW YORKERS,  
**CHINATOWN** MIGHT AS  
WELL HAVE BEEN  
LOCATED ON THE MOON.

ASIDE FROM RESTAURANTS AND  
LAUNDRIES, CAUCASIAN PEOPLE HAD  
LITTLE OR NO EXPOSURE TO THIS  
MYSTERIOUS CITY-WITHIN-A-CITY.

MYSELF INCLUDED.

MY ORDERS WERE TO  
EXPLORE THE STREET LIFE,  
SPEAK TO THE LOCALS AND  
GET A LAY-OF-THE-LAND.

...BUT, I'M  
LOOKING FOR A  
NEW **LAUNDRY**  
SERVICE! CAN'T  
YOU JUST—?

NO, **NO!** NO  
NEW BUSINESS!  
NO NEW  
CUSTOMER!

YOU **GO...**  
NO COME BACK!  
YOU GO **NOW!**

UNFORTUNATELY...



...THAT TASK WAS  
PROVING EASIER  
SAID THAN DONE.

WHO EVER  
HEARD OF SUCH A  
THING?! A SHOP THAT  
WOULDN'T TAKE NEW  
CUSTOMERS?!

SOMETHING'S  
CLEARLY WRONG—  
JUST AS LAMONT  
SUSPECTED!



"SCUSE,  
MISS. YOU SEEK  
LAUNDRY? YOU  
NEED SERVICE,  
YES?

WHY...  
YES! YOU KNOW  
OF A SHOP THAT'S  
OPEN TO...FOLKS  
LIKE ME?!



YES, YES!  
VERY GOOD!  
VERY CLEAN!  
VERY FAST!

CAN YOU...SHOW  
ME? I'D, UH...  
LOVE TO TALK TO  
THE OWNER!



YES, YES! I TAKE  
YOU THERE! PLEASE TO  
FOLLOW, HONORABLE  
MISS...THIS WAY!

MUST HURRY!  
CHOP-CHOP!

THROUGH...  
THERE? UH,  
VERY WELL....

IN TYPICAL  
FASHION...











⟨WE HAVE LABORED  
FOR THEM. BUILT THEIR  
RAILROADS. DUG THEIR  
TUNNELS. TENDED  
THEIR DOCKS.⟩

⟨IMPORTED  
OUR CULTURE AND  
WISDOM FOR THEIR  
ENTERTAINMENT!⟩



⟨OUR CIVILIZATION  
HAD INVENTED PAPER...  
WHILE THEY WERE STILL  
SCRATCHING ON ANIMAL  
HIDES!⟩

⟨WE CREATED THE  
GUNPOWDER THAT  
THEY NOW FIND SO  
IRRESISTABLE!⟩



⟨I ASK YOU,  
BROTHERS...IS IT RIGHT  
THAT THESE MILK-SKINNED  
SAVAGES CONTROL  
OUR DESTINY?!⟩

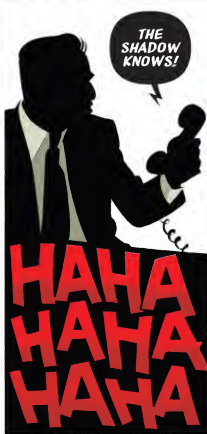


⟨I HAVE ALREADY  
STRUCK THE FIRST  
BLOW AGAINST OUR  
EUROPEAN  
OPPRESSORS!⟩

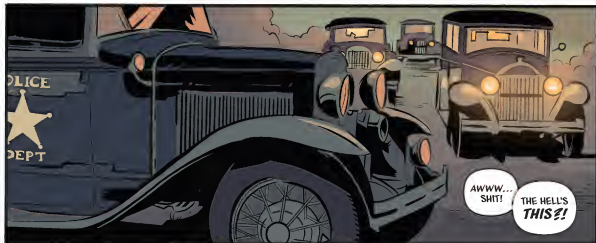
⟨COURAGE, MY  
BROTHERS...AS THE  
HIP SING NOW  
GO TO WAR!⟩



# RING RING RING







AWWWW...  
SHIT!

THE HELL'S  
**THIS!!**



WHAT'SAMATTAH,  
FLATFOOT?  
AIN'T GOT NOTHIN'  
BETTER TO DO THAN  
BOTHER HONEST  
CITIZENS?

WELL, YEGG, IT'S  
LIKE THIS...YOU HAPPY  
MOTORISTS WOULDN'T  
BE HEADED TO  
**CHINATOWN** NOW,  
WOULD YA?



WUTSIS, A  
SHAKEDOWN?

NOT A BIT OF IT!  
YOU'LL BE FREE TO  
GO ON YOUR MERRY  
WAY...**IF** WE DON'T  
FIND ANY ILLEGAL  
WEAPONS IN YOUR  
VEHICLES. THAT IS!

GODDAMN  
COPS!



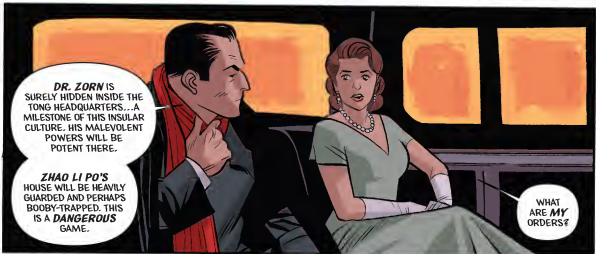
LOOKS LIKE THEY  
WERE LOADED FOR  
BEAR, INSPECTOR!  
SURE WAS A  
LUCKY TIP...

I DON'T THINK  
"LUCK" HAD  
ANYTHING TO DO  
WITH IT, MURPHY.



FOR THE MOMENT  
AT LEAST...DISASTER  
HAS BEEN AVERTED.

BUT THIS  
SITUATION  
**CANNOT**  
BE  
ALLOWED TO  
FESTER.



**DR. ZORN** IS  
SURELY HIDDEN INSIDE THE  
TONG HEADQUARTERS...A  
MILESTONE OF THIS INSULAR  
CULTURE. HIS MALEVOLENT  
POWERS WILL BE  
POTENT THERE.

**ZHAO LI PO'S**  
HOUSE WILL BE HEAVILY  
GUARDED AND PERHAPS  
BOOBY-TRAPPED. THIS  
IS A **DANGEROUS**  
GAME.

WHAT  
ARE **MY**  
ORDERS?



IF I SHOULD FAIL-  
**YOU** MUST REPORT TO  
THE POLICE AND DEVISE  
A STORY THAT WILL  
INDUCE A RAID.

SADLY, THE  
TESTIMONY OF A  
**WHITE** WOMAN WILL  
GARNER FAR MORE  
ATTENTION THAN  
ANY COMPLAINT  
**STANLEY** MIGHT  
LODGE.

WELL...LET'S  
JUST HOPE IT  
DOESN'T **COME**  
TO THAT!



THESE PEOPLE  
**MUST** BE FREED FROM  
THE YOKE OF **ZORN'S**  
FOUL DOMINION...  
**BEFORE** FURTHER  
TRAGEDY ENSUES!

STAND READY...AS  
**THE SHADOW**  
STRIKES!



DESPITE ALL I'VE WITNESSED,  
EVERY EXAMPLE OF HIS FEARLESS  
AND DEDICATED HEROISM...

I STILL WANT TO HOLD  
HIM TIGHTLY IN MY GRASP  
EVERY TIME HE STEPS  
OUT INTO THE DARK AND  
DEADLY NIGHT.



**DENY** HIM THE CLOAK AND  
THE SCARF AND THE HAT.



**«JU HAI!**  
ATTEND ME...  
AT ONCE!)

BUT I KNOW THIS  
CAN NEVER BE.

HIS SHADOW...  
DEMANDS **JUSTICE!**



⟨YES,  
MASTER  
LI PO?⟩

⟨YOU ARE  
SLOW TO ANSWER,  
GIRL! ARE YOU TIRED  
OF MY HOUSE?!⟩



⟨N-NO, SIR!  
HOW CAN I BEST  
SERVE YOU THIS  
EVENING?⟩

⟨OUR HONORED GUEST  
HAS REQUESTED ANOTHER GIRL  
AND YOU ARE NEXT IN LINE!  
GO NOW...SERVE HIM AS  
YOU WOULD ME!⟩

⟨N-NO!  
I CANNOT BEAR  
HIS TOUCH AGAIN!  
H-HE REVELS  
IN HURTING US!  
H-HE LAUGHS AT  
OUR PAIN...!⟩



⟨STUPID SOW!  
YOUR DESIRES  
AND COMFORT ARE  
OF NO CONCERN! HE  
IS...THE SNOW  
TIGER!⟩

⟨AAEII!  
MASTER...NO!  
PLEASE, I--⟩



⟨AND THE  
SNOW TIGER  
MUST NOT BE  
DENI--⟩

THAK





THE  
STENCH OF  
EVIL...

UNHHH...

**FHMPC**



...SICKENS  
AND BLINDS THOSE  
WHO SUFFER ITS  
TAINT.

**THE  
SHADOW  
KNOWS!**

◁W-WHO ARE  
YOU! WHAT HAVE  
YOU DONE TO OUR  
MASTER?!▷

◁N-NO!  
I WILL BEAR  
THE BLAME OF  
THIS!▷

◁HE WILL  
PUNISH ME!▷



◁BE CALM,  
JU HAI...NO  
HARM WILL  
COME TO YOU!▷

◁WHERE WAS HE  
SENDING YOU? WHERE IS  
THE LAIR OF THE ONE YOUR  
MASTER CALLED...THE  
SNOW TIGER?!▷





EVEN UNDER  
THE VEIL OF YOUR  
SHADOW-SELF...



...I RECOGNIZE  
THE FAMILIAR THROB  
OF YOUR PSYCHE,  
NEARLY AS POWERFUL  
AS MY OWN!

GREETINGS,  
YING KO!

DOES THIS SCENE  
LOOK FAMILIAR? FROM WHAT  
I REMEMBER...IT IS SIMILAR  
TO THE VERY DECADENCE THAT  
YOU ONCE ORCHESTRATED  
AND COMMANDED.

HAVE YOU  
COME TO JOIN MY  
SPLENDID ORGY OF  
DESTRUCTION?



I COME  
TO **PURGE** YOUR  
FETID INFLUENCE,  
**GERHARD  
ZORN.**

AND WIPE  
CLEAN THE BLOODY  
TRAIL OF YOUR  
TREACHERY!



SPARE ME  
THE INDIGNANT HUFF  
OF YOUR JUDGMENT,  
**YING KO!**

I WAS ONCE LIKE  
YOU...ENRAPTURED BY  
A CAUSE, SPURRED BY A  
BELIEF! BUT MY SERVICE  
TO THE KAISER LEFT  
ME ONLY BROKEN  
AND ALONE!



FINALLY, I  
REALIZED...SALVATION LAY  
NOT IN THE SO-CALLED  
"ENLIGHTENMENT" OF YOUR  
PRECIOUS TULKUS AND  
MONKS...BUT IN WAR--  
THE VERY CHAOS THAT  
HAD BIRTHED ME!

I LIVE NOW...  
ONLY TO WEAVE  
ITS SWEET  
DESOLATION.

MISERY,  
YOU SEE...IS MY  
REDEMPTION!



ONLY **DEATH**  
CAN ABSOLVE  
YOUR MANY SINS,  
"**SNOW TIGER**"!











VOLITION,  
MY FRIEND...IS  
A TREACHEROUS  
THING.

IN THE END, ONE'S  
EVERY DECISION...  
MAY COME BACK  
TO BITE YOU!



to be concluded

# DYNAMITE®

## IN THE NEWS - MAY 2014

**DYNAMITE ANNOUNCES  
BLOOD QUEEN, A NEW  
DARK FANTASY EPIC  
DEBUTING IN JUNE**



Dynamite Entertainment proudly announces the upcoming June release of *Blood Queen* #1, the first issue of an ongoing dark fantasy comic book series by the creative team of writer Troy Brownfield and artist Fritz Casas. To commemorate the launch, Dynamite has commissioned artists Jay Anacleto, Ale Garza, and Sergio Fernandez Davila to provide the series' captivating cover artwork.

"I'm really excited to be working on *Blood Queen* for Dynamite," says Troy Brownfield, perhaps best known for his fantasy work on *Grimm Fairy Tales*. "I've always liked books that pull together different genres and manage to work on a few levels, and that's definitely something that we're doing here. We've got the horror element, the fantasy element, and we have medieval drama and all that entails. That means knights, witches, monsters, warring kingdoms, star-crossed lovers, betrayal, and loads of secrets. Or, as I like to call it: a great time."

Set against the fairytale backdrop of knights and magic, *Blood Queen* begins with the heartbreaking plight of a royal child, teetering between life and death. Summoned to save the princess, a young woman of untold power begins a journey that will uncover secrets, reveal forbidden desires, and stoke the fires of war. Inspired by the notorious true story of the Countess Elizabeth Bathory, *Blood Queen* imagines the Renaissance era as a colorful nightmare of mayhem, lust, and sorcery.

"In terms of characters, one of the central issues is the idea, 'How are the evil queens of fairy tales made?'" says Brownfield. "It's less a deconstruction like *Wicked* and more of a look at what could make a fundamentally good person go bad. Then again, that's not to say that it's always going to be the person that you expect, and it's not going to happen in the ways that you think you'll see coming. We want to deliver twists, turns and shocks. We'll also deal with questions of power: who has it, who earns it, who takes it, and why."

Writer Troy Brownfield has a lengthy history as a comic book writer, journalist, and college professor. He began working in comics

on the journalism side, founding ShotgunReviews.com and notably contributing to Newsarama, The Pulse, Newtype USA magazine, and more. He was Associate Editor for Fangoria Comics and The Scream Factory. In addition to creating the webcomics *Sparkshooter* (with art by Sarah Vaughn) and *Solo Acoustic* at Sparkshooter.com, Troy has written for the likes of DC Comics, Dynamite, and Zenescope, where he was the regular writer on *Grimm Fairy Tales: Myths & Legends* from 2012-2013. *Blood Queen* is his first ongoing series for Dynamite.

Fritz Casas, the artist of *Blood Queen*, has contributed extensively to the Dynamite line in recent years, depicting dynamic, gorgeous female characters in such titles as *Miss Fury*, *Red Sonja: Berserker*, *Kirby: Genesis*, *Dragonbane*, and *Queen Sonja*. "Fritz Casas is doing amazing work," says Brownfield. "It looks incredible."

"Troy's writing is fresh and brings a great take on the character," States Dynamite Publisher Nick Barrucci. "Troy's first project for us was a *Buck Rogers* Annual he wrote years ago, which was nominated for an Eagle Award. I can't say express how pleased I am that we are finally able to work on a new project together. Fans will be amazed by *Blood Queen*."

Cover artwork for *Blood Queen* will be provided by Jay Anacleto (*Warlord of Mars*, *Red Sonja*) and Ale Garza (*Deadpool*, *Teen Titans*), while Sergio Fernandez Davila (*Legenderry: A Steampunk Adventure*) has created a Retailer Exclusive Variant image that can be tailored to promote individual comic shops.

*Blood Queen* #1 will be solicited in Diamond Comic Distributors' March Previews catalog, the premiere source of merchandise for the comic book specialty market, and slated for release in June 2014. Comic book fans are encouraged to reserve copies of *Blood Queen* with their local comic book retailers. *Blood Queen* will also be available for individual customer purchase through digital platforms courtesy of Comixology, iVerse, and Dark Horse Digital.



## NEXT ISSUE:



## ISSUE #10

**SPECIAL EXTRA-SIZED FINALE**  
ISSUE!!! 30 pages of story and art! Join Eisner Award-winning artist Matt Wagner and the art team of Wilfredo Torres and Brennan Wagner for the pulse-pounding conclusion to this landmark series. Excitement fills the night as *The Shadow* finally faces off with his long-time nemesis, Dr. Zorn, a psychic villain whose powers and training rival those of the Night Master himself! Will Lamont Cranston's dark-cloaked alter-ego find the strength to defeat the vile and consumptive Zorn? Will Margo Lane fall to the flying bullets and psychic traps of *The Shadow's* enemy? And will the Reporter finally manage to unmask the mystery behind New York's crusader for justice? New readers and longtime *Shadows* fans alike will thrill as all is finally revealed as *The Shadow's* fledgling adventures against crime draw to a close...and his longtime crusade truly begins!

## DYNAMITE®

Visit us online at [www.DYNAMITE.com](http://www.DYNAMITE.com)  
Follow us on Twitter @[dynamitecomics](https://twitter.com/dynamitecomics)  
Like us on Facebook /[Dynamitecomics](https://www.facebook.com/Dynamitecomics)  
Watch us on YouTube /[Dynamitecomics](https://www.youtube.com/Dynamitecomics)

Nick Barrucci, CEO / Publisher  
Juan Collado, President / COO  
Rich Young, Director Business Development  
Keith Davidson, Marketing Manager  
Joe Rybandt, Senior Editor  
Hannah Gorfinkel, Associate Editor  
Josh Green, Traffic Coordinator  
Molly Mahan, Assistant Editor  
Josh Johnson, Art Director  
Jason Ullmeyer, Senior Graphic Designer  
Katie Hidalgo, Graphic Designer  
Chris Caniano, Production Assistant

To discuss this and more, log onto the Dynamite forums at  
**WWW.DYNAMITE.COM/BOARDS**



**A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE SHADOW YEAR ONE #9  
FROM MATT WAGNER'S SCRIPT TO WILFREDO TORRES LINE ART  
TO BRENNAN WAGNER'S COLORS**

**PAGE ONE**

1) SPLASH PANEL—of Margo Lane walking down a Chinatown street; she is the only white face to be seen and many of the locals give her suspicious glances.

CAPTION: TO MOST NEW YORKERS, CHINATOWN MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN LOCATED ON THE MOON.

ASIDE FROM RESTAURANTS AND LAUNDRIES, CAUCASIAN PEOPLE HAD LITTLE OR NO EXPOSURE TO THIS MYSTERIOUS CITY-WITHIN-A-CITY.

MYSELF INCLUDED.

MY ORDERS WERE TO EXPLORE THE STREET LIFE, SPEAK TO THE LOCALS AND GET A LAY-OF-THE-LAND.

2) INSIDE—a laundry, she argues with the woman behind the counter.

MARGO: ...BUT, I'M LOOKING FOR A NEW LAUNDRY SERVICE! CAN'T YOU JUST—?

WOMAN: NO, NO! NO NEW BUSINESS! NO NEW CUSTOMER!

YOU GO...NO COME BACK! YOU GO NOW!

CAPTION: UNFORTUNATELY...



## A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE SHADOW YEAR ONE #9 FROM MATT WAGNER'S SCRIPT TO WILFREDO TORRES LINE ART TO BRENNAN WAGNER'S COLORS

### PAGE TWO

1) **FRUSTRATED**—she leaves the laundry, not noticing a Chinese man who lingers at the corner of the building; he is somewhat non-descript with a thin droopy mustache, standing a bit hunched over and wearing a dark Asia-style jacket/tunic and a pork-pie hat.

**CAPTION:** ...THAT TASK WAS PROVING EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

**MARGO:** WHO EVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING?! A SHOP THAT WON'T TAKE NEW CUSTOMERS?!

SOMETHING'S CLEARLY WRONG—JUST AS LAMONT SUSPECTED!

2) **SHE'S SURPRISED**—as the man speaks to her in broken English.

**MAN:** 'SCUSE, MISS. YOU SEEK LAUNDRY? YOU NEED SERVICE, YES?

**MARGO:** WHY...YES! YOU KNOW OF A SHOP THAT'S OPEN TO...FOLKS LIKE ME?!

3) **HE BOWS**—as Margo steps closer, questioning him.

**MAN:** YES, YES! VERY GOOD! VERY CLEAN! VERY FAST!

**MARGO:** CAN YOU...SHOW ME? I'D, UH...LOVE TO TALK TO THE OWNER!

4) **HE MOTIONS**—for her to follow her into an alley; glancing over her shoulder, she follows him.

**MAN:** YES, YES! I TAKE YOU THERE! PLEASE TO FOLLOW, HONORABLE MISS...THIS WAY!

**MUST HURRY! CHOP-CHOP!**

**MARGO:** THROUGH...THERE? UH, VERY WELL....

**CAPTION:** IN TYPICAL FASHION...



## A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE SHADOW YEAR ONE #9 FROM MATT WAGNER'S SCRIPT TO WILFREDO TORRES LINE ART TO BRENNAN WAGNER'S COLORS

### PAGE THREE

1) EYES WIDE—Margo is shocked to hear a familiar voice coming from the man.

CAPTION: ...HE CHOSE A MORE CLANDESTINE APPROACH.

MAN: HONESTLY, MARGO...FOLLOWING A STRANGER DOWN  
[Off-panel] AN ALLEYWAY?

MARGO: OH! I—

2) NOW STANDING TALL— and holding his hat in one hand, the Chinese man identifies himself as Cranston in disguise as Margo quickly regains her poise.

CRANSTON: HARDLY THE MOST CAUTIOUS PLAN OF ACTION!

MARGO: WELL, I...KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP. AND MY DERRINGER'S  
MORE THAN READY!

I MEAN...REALLY, LAMONT! "CHOP-CHOP"?!

CRANSTON: A CARICATURE MEANT ONLY TO DECIEVE WESTERN BIAS. I  
ASSURE YOU, BOTH MY MANDARIN AND CANTONESE ARE FLAWLESS!

3) HE TELLS—Margo of what he has learned whilst undercover.

CRANSTON: BUT MY SUSPICIONS WERE RIGHT! THERE IS A PALPABLE  
MALAISE HERE! SOMETHING—OR SOMEONE—HAS INFECTED THIS AREA LIKE  
A PLAGUE.

MARGO: I KNOW! MY RECEPTION AT EVEN WELL KNOWN BUSINESSES HAS  
BEEN, WELL.... "CHILLY" DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE IT!

4) RESUMING—his disguise, he gives Margo her instructions as he heads back towards the street.

CRANSTON: IT'S LIKE ALL OF CHINATOWN IS BRACING ITSELF FOR SOME-  
THING BIG...SOMETHING TERRIBLE.

KEEP SCRATCHING AT THE SURFACE, MARGO. MEANWHILE...



## A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE SHADOW YEAR ONE #9 FROM MATT WAGNER'S SCRIPT TO WILFREDO TORRES LINE ART TO BRENNAN WAGNER'S COLORS

### PAGE FOUR

1) CUT TO—the interior of a Chinese restaurant; two Asian men sit at a table and smoke cigarettes as a waitress serves them tea. Both men are in their 40s and dressed in western suits. Each man has a bodyguard who stands to the side.

VOICE-OVER: "...I'LL DIG DEEPER—INTO THE UNDERWORLD!"

LING: < THIS SITUATION STINKS, WEI! >

WEI: < YOU'RE TELLING ME?! MY SHOP OWNERS ARE SCARED TO DEATH!  
EVEN THE GAMBLING AND OPIUM DENS ARE DOWN TO HALF THEIR NORMAL  
TAKE! >

2) THEY DISCUSS—the latest developments inside the Hip Sing Tong; their leader seems bent on waging war with the city's Caucasian mobs (sound familiar?).

LING: < THE HIP SING TONG HAS OPERATED PEACEFULLY WITH THE WESTERN  
MOBS FOR YEARS!!

< WHY THE HELL DOES ZHAO LI PO HAVE TO STIR UP TROUBLE NOW?! >

WEI: < EASY, LING. LI PO IS TONG LEADER. WE MUST OBEY HIS ORDERS. >

3) BOTH OF THEM—voice their anxieties over such a move.

LING: < YES...BUT WAGING WAR WITH THE ITALIANS IS MADNESS!

< AND MAD LEADERS...MUST SOMETIMES BE REPLACED. >

WEI: < PHEH! CAREFUL, MY FRIEND...SUCH TALK IS DANGEROUS. >

4) AS THEY LEAVE—the restaurant, a non-descript Chinese man in a dark tunic and pork-pie hat stands nearby.

WEI: < LI PO HAS EARS EVERYWHERE! LET US WAIT TO SEE WHAT HE SAYS AT  
TONIGHT'S MEETING. >

LING: < I FEAR THE WORST, WEI. HE SEEMS...NOT HIMSELF. >

